

## **Woodhill Residents Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting held at St Ninian's High School Monday 20 April 2009**

#### **PRESENT** (Alphabetical order)

Robert Lowe

Donald Macdonald (Chairman)

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)

Dominic Notarangelo

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott

#### **APOLOGIES** (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

Betty Logan

Jim Logan

Councillor Gordan Low

Rosaleen McDowell

Alan Moir

Anne Mullin

Tom Russell

#### **Welcome**

Donald opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Unfortunately at the commencement of the meeting there were insufficient members present to reach the Group's quorum as set out in the Constitution. It was decided, however, to proceed with the meeting on the understanding that items which required a decision would be carried over to the next meeting.

#### **Provost Alex Hannah (deceased)**

Donald intimated that Jackie, Wilma and himself had attended the funeral of Provost Alex Hannah held on Friday 17 April 2009. All three felt that the large number present was an indication of the high regard in which Provost Hannah was held not only by close family members but also by his colleagues with EDC and the community as a whole.

#### **Minutes**

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Robert and seconded by Jack.

Before commencing Chair's Report, Donald asked if there were any items to be raised under AOCB. These were as follows, (a) "Catch the Light (b) Menteith Park and (c) Boundary issue at Wallacegate. These were duly noted.

#### **Chair's Report**

Donald began by referring to the press coverage received in connection with the junction of Auchinairn/Woodhill Roads and the Puffin Crossing on Woodhill Road. Photographs had appeared both in the Bishopbriggs Herald and the Evening Times. Although there was nothing further to report on the former, it is interesting to note that work on the Puffin Crossing seems to have halted, except for the removal of the telephone box. It is anticipated, however, that this is only temporary. When asked, Donald reiterated the Group's position regarding the crossing, namely that there is need for a safe crossing on Woodhill Road. However, it does not condone the manner in which EDC proceeded with the work before final date of the public notice and also by not informing the residents directly affected.

Although this item will be referred to AOCB, Donald wished to have it recorded that the construction work was well underway within Menteith/Etive Park.

He informed the Group that he had attended a meeting of ACT (Academy Community Trust), the Community Council and Muse Developments in connection with the retention of the Sports Hall. He would report further on this item later in the meeting.

The Group had held an Easter Egg Competition which, regrettably, had not been particularly successful. The competition was held in conjunction with the Group's website, using the Google map, and Four Square Newsagents on Woodhill Road. It was hoped to repeat this next year in a more simplified manner and more widely publicised. Wilma was asked to take the chocolate eggs which were left over to a local hospital/hospice/care home and this she agreed to do.

With regard to funding for the History Project Donald had been advised to approach National Heritage and this he intends to do. He will report further on this item later in the meeting.

Unfortunately due to inclement weather it had not been possible to take photographs of the daffodils in bloom; it had been hoped to do this in conjunction with the work being carried out in Menteith/Etive Park.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Wilma reported that since the date of the last meeting the sum of £77.20 had been spent on behalf of the Group. She also reported that the Income and Expenditure of the Group had been independently audited and had been found to be in order: no cost had been incurred by the Group for this. She also informed the Group that the report submitted on behalf of the Group to the Big Lottery "Awards for All" had been accepted and that the grant file had now been closed.

### **Bishopbriggs Academy - Drainage**

When invited, Jack intimated that the problem experienced by his neighbour and himself continued unresolved. He hoped to be able to report more positively at the next meeting.

### **Snack Van Licence**

Wilma informed the Group that various e-mails had been exchanged between Councillors Low, O'Donnell, officers within EDC and Donald and herself regarding this matter. To summarise, it seems that the Commercial Manager for Facilities Management within the Council, who oversees healthy eating for pupils throughout EDC, is currently working on a report on "exclusion zones" adjacent to schools. It is intended that this report, when completed, will be presented to the relevant Council Committee which, it is understood, is the Corporate Management Team.

It is gratifying for the Group to note that this matter is receiving attention by EDC and that the concerns of parents and residents adjacent to schools are receiving serious and meaningful consideration.

### **Junction Woodhill/Auchinairn Roads**

As mentioned under Chair's Report an article, including a photograph, had appeared recently in the local and national press regarding the hazardous conditions experienced by drivers of all types of vehicles at this junction. Donald indicated that he had heard nothing since his last e-mail to Derek Cunningham, Head of Roads Greenspace and Waste Management in which he asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the detailed assessments undertaken by the External Consultants referred to by Mr Cunningham. Mr Cunningham had referred to this after Donald informed him that according to George Gillespie of Land Services within Glasgow City Council "there is no entitlement for the provision of on street parking outside any houses in Glasgow".

To date no response to this has been received from Mr Cunningham. However, Donald agreed to contact him again and hoped to report further at the next meeting.

### **Bishopbriggs Academy Travel Plan**

Despite several requests Donald again indicated that he was still awaiting a copy of the Travel Plan for inclusion on the Group's website. The reluctance by EDC to provide this seems inexplicable. However, he would persist.

### **Ward Committee Spending**

As noted earlier work has commenced in Menteith/Etive Park made possible by £11000.00 awarded under the Ward Committee Spending scheme and for this the Group is most grateful. It is hoped that when the work is finally finished, the play park will prove to be an asset to both children and adults within Woodhill.

### **Town Centre/Sports Hall**

Donald said that he understood that the outcome of discussions between various parties and Muse Development was to be discussed at a special meeting of the Community Council due to take place the following evening ie

Tuesday 21 April. Although, as a courtesy as Chair of WRG, he had been given a “heads up” he was unable to discuss the matter further until it was in the public domain. The Group accepted this and looked forward to receiving details of the meeting next time the Group met.

### **Lowmoss Prison**

Donald understood that the naming of the prison would be decided at the forthcoming meeting of the Strathclyde Community Justice Authority due to be held on Monday 22 June 2009. Six councils were represented on this Authority: Councillor Michael O’Donnell represents EDC. It was suggested that a copy of the petitions signed by local residents, together with the names of those which can be copied from the Group’s website, should be e-mailed to the six councillors in question. Donald intimated that it would also be possible for members of the Group to attend this meeting.

Although the above was agreed in principle by those present, since there was no quorum, a decision on this matter would require to wait until the next meeting of the Group.

### **Buckfast**

Donald reported that due to pressure of other work, he has not been able to ascertain the information, if indeed it was available, in order to challenge the comments by the makers of Buckfast. However, he hoped to report further on this at a future meeting.

### **History Project**

As indicated earlier Donald now intended to contact National Heritage for funding to support this project. Although his original plan had been to approach the Big Lottery “Awards for All” he had since been advised against. He would keep the Group informed of the progress made in this regard.

### **Dog Fouling**

Wilma informed the group that, as requested, she had contacted the Environmental Health Department within EDC regarding this matter. The reply received indicated that Dog Warden had been informed of the situation and that the Cleansing Department had been asked to clean up the lane.

### **Woodhill Road Crossing and Kirriemuir Road and Gardens–Traffic**

Although as indicated earlier, the work on this crossing seems to have halted meantime, following the last meeting Wilma had e-mailed to Roads Services at EDC, attaching the list compiled on the traffic exiting Kirriemuir Road at 3.00 pm at close of the school day from Woodhill Primary School. In the reply received from EDC the Group was advised that the Traffic and Transportation Team were currently investigating this matter and a substantive reply will be sent directly as soon as possible. It was, therefore, hoped to report further on this at a later meeting.

### **Family Fun Day**

Donald reminded the Group that following investigation by the Estates Department of EDC, ownership of Menteith/Etive Park had been raised. In fact it has now been confirmed that the majority of the park is owned by Scottish Water. Consequently there was concern that permission may not be granted to hold this year’s “Family Fun Day”. However, following approaches to Scottish Water made by Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer of EDC and Donald, permission had been granted on the understanding that “no permanent changes are made to this area, nor should any activities be to the detriment of any Scottish Water land and/or apparatus. All of the foregoing is, of course, acceptable.

Donald confirmed that he has made an application for funding to the Community Grant Scheme. He also intends to make a further application to the Big Lottery “Awards for All”. He hopes to be able to report favourably on these at a future meeting.

Dominic entered at this point, thus providing the meeting with a quorum.

Following an approach by Mr Jimmy Watson from the Huntershill Visitor Centre, the Group has been invited to join with the Centre in a weekend celebration of the life of Thomas Muir (1755-1799). Thomas Muir was a Scottish political reformer who was tried, found guilty of sedition and transported to Australia. It is intended to hold the festival on Saturday 18 September; this date is significant since it is the date upon which he returned to Scotland in the year ..... The proposed date for the Group's Family Fun Day is Sunday 19 September and it is felt that this would tie in neatly to the proposed festival. The proposal is still in the early stages, but Donald would report further on this at a future meeting. Donald also understands that it is a plan to erect a statue to Thomas Muir in the proposed civic space within the new town centre.

### **Vandalism**

Robert informed the Group that once again his property had been damaged by youths passing his window. In common with many other victims of vandalism, Robert did not report this to the Police as there is the perception, true in many cases, that nothing can be or will be done to find the perpetrators. Robert suggested that the Group display on their website contact details for Strathclyde Police and the Community Police Officers within the local area. He also felt that it would be useful to publish local crime figures on the website.

A lengthy discussion took place at the end of which it was suggested that the crime figures which are presented to the Community Council be placed on the Group's website. As an aside Donald did point out that crime figures usually are better than we perceive them to be. Nevertheless he agreed that it would be useful to have these figures updated as and when information was available. With regard to "contact details", it was felt more appropriate for a link to Strathclyde Police to appear on the website. Robert agreed to contact Superintendent John Duff at Kirkintilloch Police Station seeking permission for such a link and at the same time asking his advice on a suitable manner in which to report crime statistics on the website. He would report further at the next meeting.

### **Campus Officer**

Robert spoke to a report he had prepared on the above subject. A lengthy discussion took place during which it reported that both high schools ie Bishopbriggs Academy and Turnbull High and the Strathclyde Police had indicated that their willingness to support the appointment of a Campus Officer. The intention would be that officer would go between both high schools and the feeder primary schools during his working day of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. He would also be responsible for the areas in close proximity to the schools.

Since it would appear that there were no objections within the local schools for such a proposal, Robert asked that the information contained in his report be sent to all councillors, David Whitton MSP and Jo Swinson MP. Before doing so, Donald suggested contact be made with Gordon Molesdale, Head Teacher at Bishopbriggs Academy to confirm that this was indeed the case. He would contact Robert directly on this matter: he would also report further to the Group at the next meeting.

### **Vandalism**

Returning to this subject Robert pointed out that it had been reported in a recent edition of the Bishopbriggs Herald that a mobile CCTV was to be located on or near Southesk Avenue following a recent spate of vandalism. He felt that Woodhill could also benefit from the use of this technology in view of the prolonged vandalism experienced in the area over the last several years. It was agreed that Donald would contact Councillor Anne McNair, Convener of Community Safety Committee seeking information on the placing of this camera in or around the blackspots within the Woodhill area.

### **'Catch the Light'**

The Group has been asked to participate in East Dunbartonshire Youth Mapping Exercise which will be carried out by the above organisation. The main focus of the exercise will be on the current activities and future plans of the group, at the same time seeking the Group's views and opinions towards future needs and opportunities within the community. It is hoped that the main outcome of the "mapping" is to produce a directory of youth work services and organisation working in East Dunbartonshire. The Group indicated its willingness to take part in this exercise and asked Wilma to "Catch the Light" the Group's contact details for this purpose.

## **Menteith Play Park**

A resident who lives and uses the above park has brought to the attention of the Group the current state of the new enclosed play and equipment area. While acknowledging that a considerable amount of work has been carried out, this seems to have stalled. As a result the metal fencing which is in place to cordon off for safety the unfinished part of the play area, has been pushed to the ground allowing the children to enter in to what is a rather hazardous area, covered with large stones scattered over a large uneven surface. It is in this area that the new climbing frame has been placed and it is this which is attracting the children.

Wilma was asked to contact Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer and to make her aware of the situation.

## **Boundary Issue**

It is understood that the question of realigning the boundary which would take properties currently within EDC into Glasgow City Council, will be considered shortly by the Boundary Commission. At the moment the date and time are unknown but Donald informed the Group that he expected EDC to vigorously oppose such a decision. On behalf of the Group Donald had offered to assist the residents in the affected properties in any way it was deemed possible.

## **Annual Report–2008-09**

Donald informed the Group that he intended to circulate the first draft of the annual Report. This should be done within the next several days and any comments would be gratefully received.

## **Bus Turning Circle**

Dominic brought to the attention of the Group a letter copied to him in connection with the outline planning permission already granted in connection with the above. The purpose of the letter is unclear and Dominic agreed to pursue the matter further and report at the next meeting.

## **Lowmoss Prison**

As there was now a quorum, Donald briefly reiterated the Group's intentions to submit copies of the petitions, including the on line petition, to the individuals on the Strathclyde Community Justice Authority as outlined earlier in the Minutes. This was now agreed. Plans would now be made to send on these items and to prepare plans to attend/lobby the meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

Wilma reminded the Group that the next meeting would be held on **Monday 11 May** and not Monday 18 May as had been intimated at the beginning of the session: the venue remains unchanged ie **St Ninian's High School**.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.